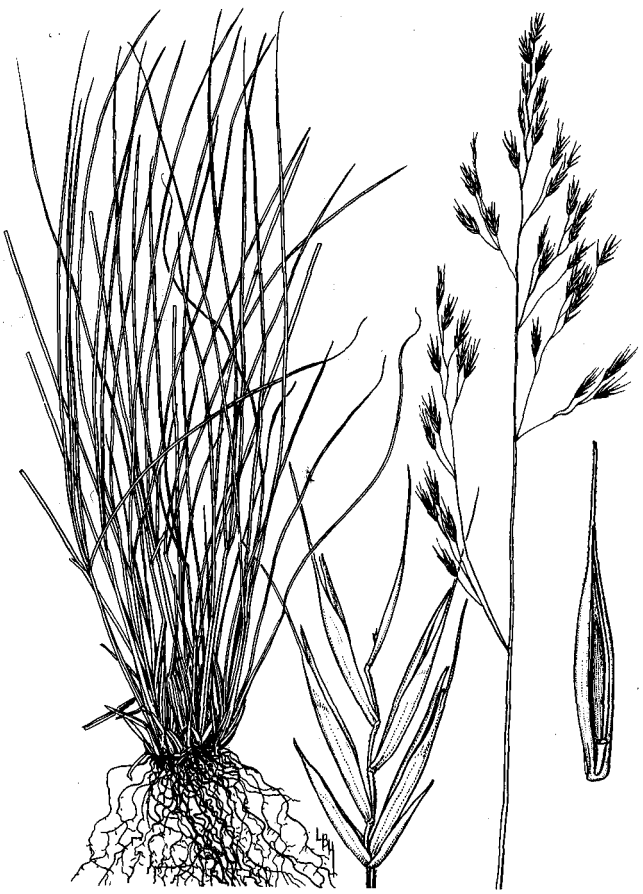
**DURAR HARD FESCUE (Festuca ovina var. duriuscula)**
**For Erosion Control Plantings**
In Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin



Description: Durar hard fescue was introduced from Europe. It was selected from an old planting on Eastern Oregon Livestock Experiment Station by the SCS Plant Materials Center at Pullman, Washington, and released in 1949. It is a cool season perennial bunchgrass which has a fine fibrous root system. Durar is more drought resistant than the red fescues and is quite tolerant of shade. Established plantings are long-lived and improve with age.

Purpose: To evaluate this plant for providing herbaceous ground cover on droughty sites where the red fescues have not been satisfactory. Plantings are considered on mine tailings, strip mine areas, sandblows, logging trails, roadbanks, and recreational areas.

Standard for Comparison: Red or Chewings fescue will normally be considered the standard.

Site: Durar hard fescue is adapted to well-drained, medium-acid to mildly alkaline soils. Neither elevation nor frost limits its adaptation. Sites are usually low in fertility where hard fescue is used.

Planting Method: Broadcast seedings are commonly made for erosion control. On some sites a grain drill or other seeder may be used. On areas where equipment can be used, cultipacking before and after seeding will provide a firm seedbed and cover seed to desired depth. Shallow covering of seed is essential--not more than 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep. If drill is used, take tension off drill disks to permit shallow seeding.

Fertilizer: Apply moderate amount of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash. Example: 200-300 pounds of 12-12-12 fertilizer or equivalent.

Rate of Seeding: Hard fescue has approximately 680,000 seeds per pound. A seeding rate of 20 pounds per acre is adequate.

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Date of Seeding: Seed as early in spring as possible, with or without a companion crop.

Management: If site permits use of equipment, reduce weed competition by high mowing. Hard fescue is slow to establish. After establishment, approved herbicides can be used to control the invasion of undesirable plants.

Dorian A. Carroll, Plant Materials Specialist
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